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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0157
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0371

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 000391

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/2017

TAGS: PREL XA XW SU JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN LEERY OF TRYING TO INFLUENCE AFRICAN UNION
CHAIR ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 09783

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission W. Michael Meserve. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Embassy political officer delivered reftel talking points January 29 to First Africa Division Principal Deputy Director Fumihiro Kawakami. Japan shares U.S. concerns about Darfur and the possibility that Sudanese President Bashir might be elected as African Union Chair, but does not intend to become involved, explained Kawakami. Japan sent a delegation to the summit meeting, but only as observers. Prime Minister Abe would have to be involved in any attempt to influence the election, stated Kawakami, because ministers are not allowed access to the deliberations. Any diplomacy at a lower-than-ministerial level would be ineffective because of "African political dynamics," he asserted.

DONOVAN